MAR 0 3 2005
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Richard W. Poole, et al.
Appl. No.: 10/684,235
Conf. No.: 3009
Filed: October 13, 2003
Title: GAMING DEVICE WITH MULTI-PURPOSE REELS
Art Unit: 3714
Examiner: Michael W. O'Neill
Docket No.: 112300-1785

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated October 26, 2004, and in accordance with the telephone interview conducted on February 7, 2005. This Response is submitted with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE"). A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time to respond to the Office Action is also submitted herewith. A check in the amount of $910.00 is submitted herewith to cover the cost of the one-month extension of time and the RCE. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or credit.

Claims 1 to 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bennett WO 00/32286 ("*Bennett*") or unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of *Bennett*. Claims 1 to 24 were rejected under U.S. Patent No. 6,270,411 to Gura ("*Gura*") under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner considered the affidavit filed on July 22, 2004 to be ineffective to overcome the *Bennett* and *Gura* references. In particular, the Patent Office considered the evidence sufficient to establish conception of the invention, but insufficient to establish a reduction to practice. Applicants respectfully maintain that *Bennett* and *Gura* are not prior art of the present application.